

REMARKS

Claims 2, 10 and 18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2, 10 and 18 are amended and claims 3, 11 and 19 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter disclosed therein. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 2, 3, 10, 11, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Inui et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,204,821) and Andrade, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0109950 A1) in view of Akihiro (JP 11312197 A). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, none of the applied references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a parts procurement system that includes a virtual production line and correction means for correcting the virtual production line, wherein the correction means changes the virtual production line by correcting at least one parameter out of a production sequence change, a design change of the object and a production progress, as recited in independent claim 2 and similarly recited in independent claims 10 and 18.

The Office Action admits that Inui and Andrade fail to disclose or suggest the limitations of claims 2, 10 and 18 and the limitations of claims 3, 11 and 19 (Office Action, page 3, lines 7-9).

Moreover, Akihiro teaches a system to easily generate, correct and change a schedule plan by deciding the delivery required days of respective subunits from read times by means of each word process (problem to be solved). Moreover, as asserted by the Office Action (Office Action, page 3, lines 15-20) Akihiro teaches changing scheduling of the delivery need day of each subunit from a change in the lead time, and deciding on the date of order and the delivery date after scheduling modification (paragraph [0063]). Accordingly, Akihiro teaches changing scheduling based on a lead time, not based on at least one of a production sequence change, a

design change of the object and a production progress, as recited in independent claims 2, 10 and 18. As such, a combination of the applied references would not arrive at the subject matter of independent claims 2, 10 and 18. Thus, independent claims 2, 10 and 18, and their dependent claims, are patentable over the applied references. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2, 10 and 18 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 28, 2005

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